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FOODPathS Festival

 20-22 May 2025, Brussels

**Building tomorrow's
Sustainable Food Systems
together**

Connecting R&I, Policy, Education and Society



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Draft agenda

Version 30th of April 2025

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1. Overview

The FOODPathS Festival programme is designed to inspire and stimulate the discussion with participants on **how** to make food systems sustainable through the collaboration among different stakeholders, working together (*in partnership*) on Research & Innovation, science for Policy and Education (RIPE).

On **the first day**, participants will discover more about **how FOODPathS envisage the multi-actor collaboration on food systems sustainability, launching its “prototype” for a partnership**. After that, they will be inspired by talks focusing on the context, spanning from policy to society.

The second day is dedicated to the discussion of the elements of the prototype: having in mind inputs received on the first day, participants will provide their feedback on the proposed solution, sharing suggestions for their improvement and possible scenarios for their adoption.

On the last and final day, the discussion will focus on the uptake of the partnership prototype and on the FOODPathS future work. Stakeholders of the food systems will dialogue around the if and how the solutions proposed can improve their collaborative work to transform food systems, complemented by a final session to discuss the future steps and the role that FOODPathS can have in this process.

During the whole event, participants will interact and network each other; moreover, thanks to **posters** presented by FOODPathS partners and other initiatives, they have the possibility to learn and share about ongoing initiatives and future opportunities on the food systems challenges.

2. Draft Agenda

DAY 1 – 20.05.2025 (14.00-19.00)

Celebrating the Sustainable Food Systems Partnership prototype

Registration of participants: 13.30-14.00

A Sustainable Food Systems Partnership: the FOODPathS' way

Plenary session, live streaming – 14.00-15.30

How can we ensure that food systems transformation reflects all voices from farm to fork? How can a partnership be orchestrated to overcome challenges and drive sustainability? And what key elements must come together to create meaningful change? The Festival will open trying to address these questions through the launch of the SFS Partnership prototype: FOODPathS will present a proposal for a body that can support the food systems transformation in Europe, based on the opinions and ideas collected from stakeholders through different initiatives (interviews, surveys, workshops, etc.) in the last three years. The partnership prototype will be presented starting from its constituting “pieces”, the RIPE (Research & Innovation & science to Policy & Education) elements; then, it will be showed how they can be composed into a puzzle and work together to contribute to food systems transition. During the session, that will set the stage for the discussion of the following days, the audience will interact with speakers.

Welcome and opening – 14.00-14.10

Hugo De Vries, INRAE, FOODPathS Coordinator

The Partnership “puzzle pieces”: short presentation of the “RIPE” elements – 14.10-14.40

- *SRIA & Observatory for the SFS Partnership – Niels Halberg, Aarhus University*
- *A funding mechanism and strategies for impactful food systems R&I – Nikola Hassan, Research Center Juelich*
- *The Knowledge Hub: Empowering Food Systems for sustainable innovation– Ariane Voyatzakis, ANIA*
- *Creating the food systems sustainability knowledge through education – Gabriela Versteeg, EFFoST*
- *Local to global and back again: including everyone in food systems transition – Anna Bruen, ICLEI*

- The role of communication to ease the food systems actors' collaboration – **Sofia Mendes**, EUFIC

Putting all pieces together: how to make the Prototype SFS Partnership puzzle – 14.40-15.00

Hugo De Vries, INRAE, FOODPathS Coordinator

Your questions on feedback on the Prototype SFS Partnership – 15.00-15.30

Interactive discussion between the audience – onsite and online – and the speakers.

Coffee break & networking – 15.30-16.00

The framework around: the SFS Partnership Prototype into a context

Plenary session, live streaming – 16.00-17.30

Let's zoom out now: what's happening around? How is the context changing or can change in the next years? What shall we bear in mind when trying to change the current food systems? What are the provocative questions we must answer to ensure that our work is relevant for the many? This plenary session invites you to think about these questions through a fresh view, inspiring and inviting you to reflect. Prepare yourself to be energized by powerful voices delivering thought-provoking speeches that challenge conventional thinking. Through these perspectives, we'll rethink what sustainability, partnership, and change mean in the context of food systems transformation. It's a chance to step back and reimagine our collective journey toward a sustainable future.

Speakers:

- A context for the food systems partnership in Europe's possible new narratives – **Erika Staël von Holstein**, Re-Imagine Europa
- The potential role of Partnerships in Europe: a fragile relationship – **Caroline De Gruyter**, Journalist
- Beyond public funding: the role of philanthropy in shaping the future of food systems – **Marco Cucé**, Philanthropy European Association (Philea)
- Accessibility and affordability as pillars of a resilient food system – **Esteban Arriaga Miranda**, European Food Banks Federation (FEBA)

Networking cocktail & Posters – 17.30-19.00

Meet and discuss with other participants! **Look at your badge, there is an icon:** go find people with a different icon and start a conversation! Ask them about their expertise or any exciting projects they are currently working on.

Look at the posters done by FOODPathS and other EU-funded projects working on food systems sustainability: a chance to discover more and start new collaborations without having to break the ice! Posters will be available during the 3 days of the Festival.

DAY 2 – 21.05.2025 (9.00-17.30)

Landing the SFS Partnership prototype into the reality

Registration of participants: 8.30-9.00

Discussing the Partnership's puzzle pieces - Introduction

Plenary session – 9.00-9.15

The scope of the second day of the conference is to dive into each puzzle piece composing the FOODPathS proposed prototype and discuss them. After a short introduction, participants will join parallel sessions where they can discuss aspects related to education, observatory system for a partnership, funding mechanism, inclusion of stakeholders, etc. In each session, they can share their views, experience, best practices and learn from each other; moreover, participants can provide feedback on if and how they intend to adopt and use FOODPathS' results and suggestions for working in partnership at local, national and global levels.

Expectations and introduction – 9.00-9.15

Hugo De Vries, INRAE, FOODpathS Coordinator

From the prototype to the reality

Parallel sessions – 9.15-10.45

Participants can choose from the following sessions

Session 1.1 – A “Manual” for a Partnership

If you are considering setting up a partnership, or if you are active member of a partnership, and you need a guiding document ('Manual'), this session proposes one. The Manual is based on 3 years of FOODPathS work and presents a puzzle of inter-linked elements that deal with the functioning of a partnership (like governance, modus operandi, food system approaches, RIPE concept, Funding Strategies, Observatories, Knowledge Hub of FS Labs, Network of University-driven Ecosystems, Mirror Groups and Engagement Strategies). In an interactive session, you will all have the opportunity to provide feedback on the Manual, suggestions for missing puzzle pieces, and recommendations for usage.

Session 1.2 - Transforming funding approaches for transformative food systems R&I

In order to maximise the impact of food systems R&I, programming and funding processes need to enable systems approaches and true co-creation. Following this mission, through a series of six interactive Funders Forum events over the past two years, we explored various elements of the funding cycle together as well as how to align stakeholders and strategies. During this session we will recap what we learned from the Funders Forum events and invite the participants on a roadtrip through the elements and lessons with us. Join us in a drive-through (world café) format to validate our findings and ideas on “how to plan, design, evaluate, fund and perform R&I to transform our food systems”.

Join this session to co-shape the future of research funding!

Session 1.3 - Enhancing collaboration through the Knowledge Hub

This joint session between FOODPathS and FutureFoodS will explore how to build a shared European Knowledge Hub to accelerate the sustainable transformation of food systems. FOODPathS will present the work carried out so far, including the prototype of its Knowledge Hub and key insights from stakeholder engagement activities. Together with FutureFoodS, the session will explore ways to align efforts and join forces in developing a common space that supports collaboration, knowledge sharing, and systemic innovation across Europe. Selected case studies from Food System Labs will showcase collaborative approaches to tackling food system challenges. Through interactive discussions, participants will contribute to the co-design of the Hub, providing feedback on its features and exploring how it can best connect people, ideas, and initiatives across sectors.

Join us to co-shape a dynamic platform that strengthens connections, bridges silos, and supports the transition towards resilient, inclusive, and sustainable food systems.

Coffee break, networking & posters – 10.45-11.15

From the prototype to the reality

Parallel sessions – 11.15-12.45

Participants can choose from the following sessions

Session 2.1- Portfolio management, science advice and education: what is the link?

This session will present and discuss the conceptual framework ‘RIPE’ with a focus on the science-to-policy interface and education. The discussion will highlight how portfolio management plays a role in aligning Food Systems (FS) education programs with policy frameworks. After a few short presentations, the session will be concluded by a panel discussion with external speakers, with the scope to reach a deeper understanding of stakeholder interactions and their needs, as well as perform a critical analysis of the ‘RIPE’ framework in the context of education and the science-to-policy interface. Presentations will be delivered by:

- **Christian Bugge Henriksen**, CLEVERFOOD coordinator
- **Anna Verhoeve**, Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (ILVO)

Session 2.2 – Inclusive Partnerships in real-life: a major challenge

This session will discuss the way different Food System actors are really engaged, their views are mirrored, their voices are listened to, their actions combined, and their interactions with external parties transformed

into co-benefits, to collectively tackle our global & local challenges. After a short presentation on challenges and opportunities shared with FOODPathS partners on how to create an inclusive partnership, speakers will provide practical examples to spark a discussion with the festival attendees in the room. The speakers in this session participated to the FOODPathS Mirror Groups and they are:

- **Wineke Remijnse**, European Federation of the Associations of Dietitians (EFAD)
- **Annie Trevenen Jones**, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)
- **Samuele Pii**, European Regions for Innovation in Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ERIAFF)
- **Jacqueline Broerse**, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam – Athena Institute
- **Almudena Garcia Sastre**, FIAN Europe

Lunch Break – 12.45-14.15

Bringing all the puzzle pieces together

Plenary session, live streaming – 14.15-15.30

The session will start with the presentation of the main insights coming from each parallel sessions, followed by a panel discussion in which food systems' actors will comment and discuss around the morning sessions.

Reports from parallel sessions – 14.15-14.45

Short pitches from rapporteurs of each session

Composing the puzzle: how can it work in the real world? – 14.45-15.30

Moderation: Jasmina Von Driel (ZonMw)

- **Anna Bruen**, ICLEI, FoodPathS
- **Claude Yven**, ANR, FutureFoodS Coordinator
- **Katalin Toth**, Joint Research Centre
- **Simone Maccaferri**, Circular Bioeconomy Europe Joint Undertaking
- **Elke Saggau**, SCAR Foresight

Discovering, sharing and learning: examples of partnerships in the real word

Study visits and capacity building – From 15.30

Participants can interact with examples of partnerships that are already working in the practice. This programme is optional and **participants must register with a separate link** (that they will receive via email from the EUFIC team after they finalise the registration for the conference). All the study visits will happen on another venue (participants will be guided by the FOODPathS staff), except for the capacity building (option 2). Please, note that seats for each option are limited, and participants will be selected based on the principle **"first come, first served"**. Participants can choose from the following options:

Option 1 – Visiting the Ferme du parc Maximilien & Cocktail (Quai du Batelage 2)

The [Ferme](#) is an urban animated farm that has been in existence since 1989. Its main missions are environmental awareness and education. These are pursued through ecological events for the general public, offering an unusual space for biodiversity in the heart of Brussels. These activities go hand in hand with increased environmental awareness: organization of sustainable events, collective vegetable gardens, wastewater treatment, renewable energy, waste treatment, various composting methods, low-tech environmental innovation laboratory, etc. In addition to its educational aspect, the Ferme du parc Maximilien is an important bastion of cultural initiatives for its neighborhood, and a genuine place of social cohesion through the creation of novel partnerships and the heterogeneity of its audiences. The tour of the farm will be enriched with the presentation of urban farming and food systems innovation projects, and it will end with the testing of local products and a cocktail.

Option 2 – How to Apply Social Norms to Reduce Food Waste & Networking-Apéro (Capacity building @ Ateliers des Tanneurs)

Did you ever overdo it with the quantity of food you cooked when you had guests over for dinner? Or were you too shy to ask for a doggy bag at a fancy restaurant? That's likely due to social norms—unwritten, yet powerful rules that influence people's behaviours.

You are just starting, or already actively working to reduce food waste and are looking to enhance the effectiveness of your efforts? The [CHORIZO Project](#) has developed a capacity building programme for you! Participating in this activity you will learn:

- What are social norms and how to identify them in a given context
- Why are they relevant to food waste in your sector
- How to design and run your own social norm-informed food waste intervention along our 8-step approach

At the end of the session, you will have the possibility to exchange and network with the other participants enjoying drinks and snacks!

Option 3 – “No Waste Republic”: the “taste” of food circularity (Rue Ropsy Chaudron 24)

[No Waste Republic](#) is an innovative company founded in 2022 with the mission to drive the transition of the food industry towards a circular model. The company has developed a unique solution to upcycle surplus bread by transforming it into high-quality breadcrumbs for breaded products (croquettes, meats, tempura shrimp, etc.). With this visit, you will explore the challenges and opportunities of reducing food waste and building a truly circular business. The discussion will dive into the complexities of food waste in today’s economy, the innovations shaping the future, and how businesses like “No Waste Republic” are turning discarded ingredients into high-quality, delicious products. To make this experience tangible, the group will have the chance to taste some products using their ingredients, showcasing that sustainability and great food go hand in hand.

Option 4 – Visiting the BIGH aquaponic urban farm and products’ tasting (Rue Ropsy Chaudron 24)

[BIGH](#) (Building Integrated GreenHouses) is a pioneering company in sustainable urban agriculture, based in Brussels. They specialize in developing aquaponic farms that integrate seamlessly with city infrastructure, transforming unused rooftop space into hubs of circular food production. BIGH combines fish farming, hydroponics, and smart energy use to grow fresh vegetables, herbs, and fish with minimal environmental impact. Their flagship project, the Ferme Abattoir, is a model for sustainable, local food systems, demonstrating how cities can produce high-quality, eco-friendly food while reducing waste and emissions. Participants will have the possibility to know more about aquaponics, explore the BIGH premises (an outdoor garden with two beehives, fruit/vegetable greenhouse, the herbal greenhouse and the fish farm) and to taste their products.

DAY 3 – 22.05.2025 (9.00-12.30)

What’s next?

Registration of participants: 8.30-9.00

Playing like an orchestra

Plenary session, live streaming – 9.00-10.30

In this session, starting from different perspectives and interests, food systems actors will discuss on if and how they can work together, providing their feedback on the FOODPathS partnership prototype, debating if and how proposed solutions on different RIPE elements can be used in practice, and highlighting challenges that need to be still solved. They will also interact on with whom they should/would collaborate the most and what are the barriers that should be still overcome. During the session, the audience will interact with speakers.

Panel discussion

Moderator: Natasha Foote (journalist) and Gabriela Versteeg (EFFoST)

- **Geert Maesmans**, European Technology Platform Food for Life, Director Research and Development for Cargill Food
- **Klaudia Marzec**, Municipality of Wroclaw
- **Ann Trevenen Jones**, The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)
- **Rasa Pakeltiene**, Association for European Life Science Universities
- **Ali Rhouma**, PRIMA Initiative
- **Daniele Rossi**, COPA-COGECA

Coffee break, networking & posters – 10.30-11.00

Beyond the horizon: the FOODPathS legacy for Horizon Europe partnerships

Plenary session, live streaming – 11.00-12.30

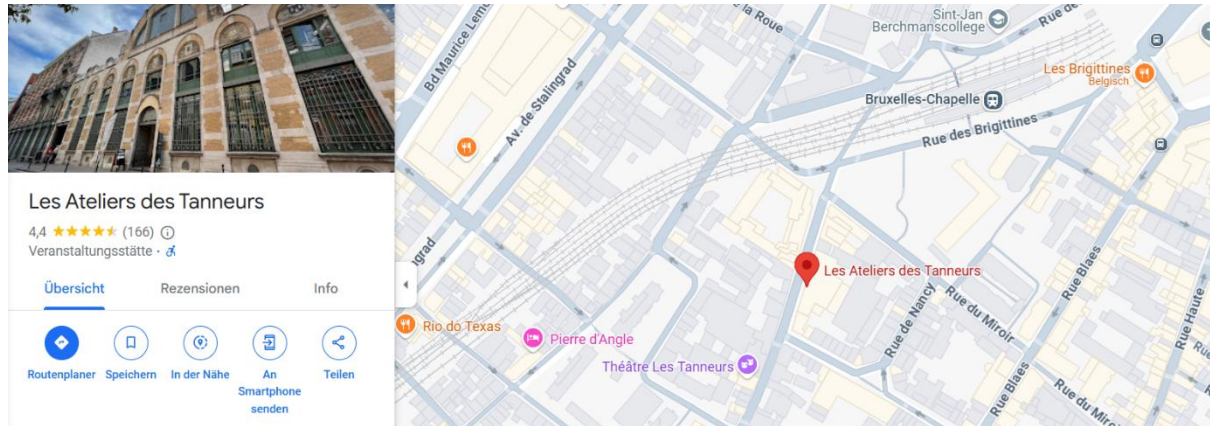
In the final session of the event, representatives of European institutions and the SCAR will discuss the elements of the FOODPathS partnership prototype and what are their expectations and needs from partnerships in the next future. Moreover, participants will discuss what could be role and support that FOODPathS can provide to stakeholders and how it can help them to bringing forward food systems research projects during the next years. During the session, the audience will interact with speakers.

Moderator: Natasha Foote (journalist)

- **Hugo De Vries**, INRAE, FOODpathS Coordinator
- **Rosalinda Scalia**, European Commission DG-RTD
- **Luis Vivas Alegre**, European Commission DG-AGRI
- **Jonas Lazaro Mojica**, European Commission DG-GROW
- **Silvia Scaramuzzi**, SCAR Food Systems Working Group
- **Tbc**, European Commission DG-SANTE

FOOPathS Festival venue

The FOODPathS Festival on 20-22 May 2025 will take place at the **Ateliers des Tanneurs (Rue des Tanneurs, 60A), Brussels Belgium.**



3. Contacts

You can **register to the FOODPathS Festival** by [clicking here](#).

For information and clarification about the FOODPathS Festival, please contact:

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More information about the FOODPathS project is available on our website www.foodpaths.eu, where you can also register to our database and receive information about results and updates.

Follow our activities also searching for #FOODPathS on [LinkedIn](#), [X](#) (Twitter) and on [the Sustainable Food Systems Network](#)!